RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

California GARDEN

10c

WINTER
1942

IRISES FOR
SAN DIEGO GARDENS
By Sidney B. Mitchell

THE PALO VERDE
By Etta Florence Adair

TO A YUCCA
By Byrd Carter

GLEANINGS
By Ida Louise Bryant

Notebook of a
MASTER GARDENER

TO A YUCCA

The Lord's candles
Are nature's own
Pure and white
And in sweet dignity
They stand alone
On mountain side
Their habitat.
And so this Christmas
Let mankind stand
Atop the mountain
Of Faith and Love
And hold aloft
That all may see
Within his eyes
That torch—the light
Of Liberty.

—Byrd Carter,
La Jolla.

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Member
American Rose Society
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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
The San Diego Floral Association
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
P. O. Box 323, San Diego, Calif.

Roland S. Hoyt, Editor
John D. Wimmer, Assoc. Editor

DECEMBER, 1942

Vol. 33. No. 12.

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association

Rates on Request

Advertising Copy should be in by the 25th of preceding month.

Subscription to Magazine, $1.00 per year; Membership $1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined, $2.00 per year.

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Natural History Museum, Balboa Park, 7:30 P. M.

Toft Printing Co., 1129 2nd St., San Diego

Irises For San Diego Gardens

By Sydney B. Mitchell

It is with some hestation that I venture to offer any suggestions to San Diego gardeners in the selection of growing of irises as I have no personal experience in your section and have been able to visit there much less frequently than I would have chosen. Much of my gardening in northern California has, however, been experimental, trying out under my own conditions plants little known or grown here, so I am making suggestions for experimenters with members of the iris family.

Though my name is most generally associated with the breeding of tall bearded irses, I want especially to commend the growing of the California native irises at a time when we are looking forward to reduced help in our gardens and to simpler upkeep. Of all the natives, the many color forms of *Iris douglasiana* have proven most satisfactory here. They are most easily raised from seed, sown outdoors in flats, frames, or the open ground in autumn, and the seedlings moved out into their permanent places late next spring. After being established they certainly resent being moved more than any other irises I know, but if particular color forms are desired they may be increased, not by digging up and dividing the clumps, but by carefully cutting off the new growth on the edges of the clump and replanting them between Christmas and arly February, that is, just before they are ready to make their season's main growth. Around San Francisco Bay, where *Iris douglasiana* grows wild on the mesas, no particular choice of location is necessary; but around San Diego I would give preference to eastern exposures or other locations where they would get morning rather than all day sunshine. They seem to prefer a neutral or acid soil to an alkaline one. I have found them useful to cover steeply sloping banks, to hold up the margins of paths on slopes, and as ground covers, the individual plants eventually growing to a couple of feet across and producing hundreds of flowers from pure white through pale blues to purple, with much variation including lovely pinkish and buff yellow forms. They are fine for cutting, light and graceful, with all buds opening in water.

Another suggestion, one particularly for those with small gardens, is to try the Oregon native *Iris innominata*, which gives us plants like miniature California natives and therefore particularly adapted to the rock garden, an abundant crop in late spring of lovely orange yellow flowers, far richer and deeper in color than in any of the California native species. Culture is the same as for our natives and it has surprisingly proved just as drought resistant in San Francisco Bay gardens.

Just a concluding note on recent developments in the tall bearded irises. California plant breeders at Redlands, Pasadena, and Berkeley, have produced so many improvements in recent years both in widening the range of colors and in developing tall, well-branched plants, that those minded to try bearded irises around San Diego might very well start with a selection of novelties raised in California and therefore most likely to succeed here. They will naturally look through the catalogs of Southern Californa growers, but as my experience and knowledge of recent introductions is mainly with the productions of Berkeley breeders, I can best suggest some of these I consider outstanding. Of recent whites, Professor Essig's *Mt. Washington* seems to me the best. His *Shining Waters,* though no longer a novelty, is still one of my favorite tall pale blues. The only two yellows I have added to my garder this year are Carl Salbach's *Berkeley Gold* and his *Dawn of Gold.* His *Golden Majesty* was his best previous yellow. My own *Fair Elaine,* the last of a series of yellows from my garden, has proved to be a fine garden plant, apparently because its standards are so much paler than its falls that the effect is one of greater brilliancy than with selfs. Last year when I looked around for a couple of really distinct varieties to add to my collection I picked Salbach's *Orange Flame* and his *California Peach,* both probably better planted out of the hot afternoon sunshine. I have mentioned recent developments, but there are now so many standard varieties available at 35 to 50c a rhizome, or cheaper n collections, that the average gardener can very well limit himself to them. They are not far

inferior to the best of the new ones. Whites like the old *Purissima,* nearly white plicatas like *Los Angeles,* yellows like *California Gold* or *Happy Days,* just to mention some locally raised varieties which have become standard, are still being bought by the hundred by those who are satisfied with quality and do not demand novelty. Fall planting in California is satisfactory and easy. Tall bearded irises must have sunshine, and every few years they must be lifted and replanted in new and well fertilized soil. In California they have no diseases or pests and will live indefinitely under very adverse conditions, but for satisfactory flowering they must be given some care, some summer watering, and the occasional division and replanting already referred to.

SYDNEY B. MITCHELL.

Berkeley, Calif.

BEST IRIS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

These choice iris were selected by the judges of the Iris Society as the best iris for Southern California gardens:

Purissima - - - (white)
San Gabriel - - (lavender)
Shining Waters - - (blue)
Los Angeles - (blue plicata)
Sierra Blue - (dark blue)
China Maid - (lilac pink)
Snow Flurry - - (white)
Spring Secretary - (yellow)
Ormohr - (grey lavender)
San Francisco - (blue plicata)
Mauna Loa - (rredish purple)
Brown Betty - (soft brown)
Sweet Alibi - (cream white)
Alta California - (yellow)
Happy Days - - (yellow)
Eastern Morn - - (white)
Golden Cataract - (deep yellow)
Lady Paramount - (yellow)
Persia - (grey purple blend)
Mount Cloud - - (white)
Pale Moonlight - (light blue)
Canyon Mists - (lavender)

—From Golden Gardens.

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From Honolulu

Dear Friend Jerabek:

Two days after sending my last letter, one of the showy Bombax trees began blooming. This particular tree (Bombax ellipticum) is in Queen's Hospital grounds and at ordinary times has nothing about it to attract attention. In fact, it looks insignificant compared with a massive Ceiba that stands nearby. But when the blossoms open out, while the tree is bare of leaves, then it's Ceiba's turn to take a back seat. These flowers have no showy petals, the beautiful part being the stamens, rose pink, about five inches long and about 300 in number. The flowers are upright and make a fine picture, with the stamens waving in the breeze.

There is a group of trees that has been a source of interest ever since I have been here. It's Albizzia lebbek, and it's not the flowers that are attractive, as they are greenish-yellow, about the size of those of Albizzia julibrissin. The interest lies in the seed pods. They are yellow and papery and literally cover the trees, giving them the appearance of straw-stacks. Most of the leguminous trees here have the seeds embedded in some sort of sticky substance—but not lebbek! That has dry pods, thin, about 1½ by 10 inches in size, containing about 10 small dry seeds, and if you happen to be near one of these trees when the wind is blowing, it sounds like a thousand rattle boxes.

About the middle of March a new group of small trees with coarse, rough leaflets began flowering, and are still at it. This is Cordia sebestena, and they are quite attractive, not on account of abundance of flowers, but because of their color, which is close to orange, but different from anything else I have seen so far.

March and most of April were rainy days in the mountains back of the city, and nearly every day the rain would blow in from there on the trade winds and we would get quite a shower, though there would be no clouds overhead. And nearly every afternoon along with our shower we would see a beautiful rainbow in the east with the mountains for a backdrop.

The last week of April it cleared and began to warm up, and then the Jacarandas started blooming in good shape. They have flowered a little at a time ever since I have been here —just enough to let us know what they were—but they started in earnest with the arrival of the warm days, and have made a fine sight ever since. There are no avenues of them, as in cities of Southern California, but they are well distributed around the city, so that wherever you happen to be you can usually see one in the neighborhood. They are particularly noticeable and welcome because most of the other flowers are on the red and yellow side of the spectrum and the blue or violet of the Jacaranda helps to balance the color scheme.

In April also the Plumerias, which are small and during the winter months have a most uninviting appearance with their bare branches that are coarse and covered with leaf-scars, came to life and made a welcome addition to the flower parade. There are three species—one with yellow flowers edged with white, one pink, and one bright red. The yellow and white ones are more heavily perfumed than any other flowers I have noticed so far. Plumerias seem to be used for leis more than any other flower at this time of year, perhaps on account of their exotic fragrance.

May 1 was Lei Day, and flower wreaths are worn by most of the population on that day each year. There was a special display of leis at the city hall, showing the many kinds of flowers that can be used for that purpose, and it was a beautiful sight. It covered a wide range, from orchids to the lowly shrimp plant, and contained all the colors of the rainbow. They are made by hand by native women, and they get very little for their work. Most of the leis sell for 25 to 50 cents, and each one represents hours of work after the flowers are picked.

May 1 also marked the beginning of the season for the shower trees, for which Honolulu is famous. You will find some of these on every street in the city, and in the sections that contain the nicer homes you will see

solid blocks of the more attractive kinds, and it really makes a picture that will never be forgotten.

These include the Red Shower (Poinciana regia), Golden Shower (Cassia fistula), Pink Shower (C, grandis), and Pink and White Shower (C. javanica). Cassias on the mainland seem to be confined to a few yellow-flowered shrubs, but the ones here are trees 15 to 25 feet high and most of them spread out to give shade as well as beauty.

(Continued on Page 8)

CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

The Fall Chrysanthemum Show, though tucked away in a small corner of a large hall, has a special place in our thoughts because it is the wartime link between the big affairs we used to give in the park and the intimate exhibits we hope to go back to after the war, in our own headquarters.

The date of the show was just right to catch the blooms at their best this year; the professional exhibit of Mrs. Lewis, from Spring Valley, serving to demonstrate how beautiful these fall jewels can be when well grown.

The amateur collection, entered by Mrs. Gardner, was extensive and merited the first and special ribbons it received.

Among the arrangements were some unusual combinations. Mrs. Jenkins had a tall cluster of tawny blooms of the spider type that just eluded the reach of a very intriguing wooden giraffe, her own handiwork. Some white rabbits on a black tray hid under white chrysanthemums while they nibbled on a purple cabbage, a composition from the same skilled hands. A large spray of red button-type, "Rufus," displayed with oriental feeling in an antique bronze bowl on a lacquer stand, entered by Captain and Mrs. Orville Goss, brought blue-ribbon approval of the judges. Other arrangements, not for competition, caused admiring glances from an enthusiastic public, who patronized the white elephant table and made the most of the opportunity to acquire their favorite plants, and sent our indefatigable chairman, Mrs. Greer, home feeling well repaid for her efforts.

A. M. C.

The Paloverde

By ETTA FLORENCE ADAIR

The common name Palo Verde, or Paloverde, is applied to more than one species native in Mexico, Arizona, and adjacent areas. But, strictly speaking, the Paloverde is the *Cercidium torreyanum*, of the family *Caesalpiniaceae* (after Andrea Caeselpino, Italian botanist, 1519-1603, by the order *Rosales*. The most important genera of the family *Caesalpiniaceae* are Caesalpinia (and here belongs the Brazil-wood, which is the source of a red dye, and which also gave the country its name of Brazil), Cassia (yields senna), Bauhinia (here belongs the orchid tree), Tamarindus (the tamarind tree), and Capaifera.

Cercidium is New Latin, from the Greek *kerkidion,* a little shuttle, that is the diminutive of a weaver's shuttle. This Greek *-io-* (nominative ion, neuter) is one of suffixes used to form the diminutive in the Greek language. The specific name, *torreyanum,* is for John Torrey, an American botanist.

The *Cercidium torreyanum* is a small tree, 15 to 35 feet high, with splender, glabrous, yellowish green, armed branches and gray foliage, or leafless for most of the year. Leaves twice pinnately compound, with 2 to 4 pairs of oblong leaflets ⅛ to ⅜ inches long, from a short petiole. Flowers yellow, almost regular, ½ to ¾ inches broad, on jointed petioles, in axillary racemes 2 to 4 and ½ inches long. Fruit pods oblong, 2 to 4 inches long, pointed at each end, 1 to 2 seeded, sometimes constrained between the flat seeds. It is native on the Colorado Desert of California and Mexico.

Palo Verde is the Spanish-Mexican name, and refers to the smooth, green bark, conspicuous in the gray of the desert. It means green tree, that is, green trunk, stem, twig (palo, pole, stick, etc., and verde, green).

The *Cercidium torreyanum* was formerly classed by some botanists as *Parkinsonia torreyanum.* The genus name is for James Parkinson, herbalist to King James I of England. The name still occasions confusion in the trade.

Parkinsonia microphylla (microphylla, a little leaf)is called the Male Palo Verde.

We sometimes find the *Cercidium floridum* called the Palo Verde. I may add that the pods of *Cercidum,* which are formed in great abundance, ripen in July and furnish food for stock.

I have consulted no less than five texts as to the derivation of *Cercidium,* and without exception they have it explained as from the Greek *kerkidion,* a weaver's shuttle. *But kerdidion* is not *a shuttel;* it is the diminutive of shuttle, that is, a little shuttle.

FOOD

Do You Know What It Means?

Home food production and its preservation is already an important item in most everybody's mind whether anything is done about it or not. You have observed that food items in the stores are becoming less plentiful and are increasing in costs. Transportation space and commercial food handling facilities are burdened by the demands of our increased population. Fresh vegetables, milk, eggs and meat are essential health foods. You are already asking yourself what you can do to meet this problem of producing as much as possible of your needs for your own family.

The 1943 Food For Freedom Program of the County United States Department of Agriculture War Board is now being started by conducting a farm registration in which each farmer is asked to report his 1943 plans for war food production. A part of this program is your home food production. Your production will help relieve the commercial food producer of a part of his big war job. A row of carrots is something now-a-days and a hill of sweet corn is something more than the mere satisfaction in growing it.

There is a real need for authentic and reliable information on how, where, when, why, who and what to do about your victory garden, producing eggs, poultry meat and rab-

(Continued on Page 9)

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!

I CALL THIS TREE

We were asked, in the last issue, to cast our vote for the handsomest tree i ntown. I nominate my favorite, the Eucalyptus citriodora on the west side of Sixth avenue, near Juniper street.

Its slender, gleaming trunk and lovely massing of branches make it a thing of beauty, that one can get a glimpse of from so many directions. All who see it, own it; but I hope that the man who owns the ground in which it grows will share it with us as long as it lives. A. G. L.

FLOWERING OAK

The brilliant flowers of Chorizema will not fail to attract notice —half crimson, half orange in color as they are and in formation like that of the pea. It is said that the name, which is Greek for "good fountain" was given to it by a botanist who, with his assistants, had been assailed the previous day with thirst—finding no means of assuaging their need of water until the following morning. The botanist, emerging from his tent, discovered close at hand a tiny fountain of water with a Chorizema shrub at its edge.—V. M. S.

MEMORIAL HONOR

Members of the Floral Association will be happy to hear that the National Begonia Society, at their Annual Meeting in Glendale, in November, decided to name the perpetual exhibit of begonias in the glass-house in Lincoln Park, Los Angeles, "The Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Exhibit."

Those who know how often Mr. Robinson expressed the hope that there might be a municipal begonia exhibit somewhere in Southern California where the best plants of their kind could be displayed for the public to enjoy and study will appreciate how appropriate this memorial is for his "enormously important activities through the years, in popularizing the Begonias in America."

Already there is an extensive exhibit in the Lincoln Park Conservatory. The choicest plants that were shown at the Convention became the nucleus of the collection. This included some forty specimens that were displayed as an exhibit by the branches of San Diego County. All of these were hybridized by local residents, including Mr. Robinson. These have been augmented by other fine plants from his Rosecroft Gardens at Point Loma. A. M. C.

FOR ACID SOILS

You can choose from quite a number of herbaceous plants and shrubs, all of them acid-loving. Such a list would include, in the shrubs, arbutus unedo, or strawberry tree; azalea species; camellia species; daphne odora; erica species; fushsia species, gardenias, hydrangeas, etc. Among the herbaceous plants you will find cineraria cruenta, cyclamen indica, delphinium nudicaule, viola species, all types of primulas, etc., quite satisfactory for the purpose named. Your nurseryman will be able to supplement this list and aid you in selecting acid-loving plants.

E. H. S.

A Promise

The month of January will see a new magazine make its bid for the gardener's shelf. This is a time when one would least expect such a thing, yet a time of turmoil may well be the very opportunity to sink roots deeply into a fallow garden consciousness. THE HOME GARDEN, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, will enter, we trust, a long and successful career in the service of gardeners.

It would appear that ideals to be incorporated in the new publication are to be high. The main objective, as reported, is to reach the amateur gardener in language that is simple, effective, and above all, accurate in presenting material for the average planter. This is all very fine, but the real assurance of quality comes the responsibility of interpretation from month to month. F. F. Rockwell has authored many top garden books over recent years. He is president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. R. C. Allen is of the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture of Cornell University, an institution that has long been a leader in these fields. Montague Free of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden writes along these lines, and lectures. Donald Wyman is a comparative newcomer, but has ably proved his mettle. He comes from that most marvelous garden of them all, the Arnold Arboretum, where he is horticulturist. And who among bulb growers has not heard of T. A. Weston of the Florists' Exchange or read some of his works. To complete this outstanding company comes Esther Grayson, Dorothy Jenkins, P. J. McKenna of the New York Botanical Gardens, Helen S. Hull, Helen V. Wilson, Alex Laurie of Ohio State

HATTIE RUMBLESHUCKS

speaking of the spirit that is Christmas, tells of folks and the diverse ways of making it their own "some in a stride an' some right determined, others tastin' it light, but mostly deep, adrawin' of the holy gladness out like a flavorin' o' fine wine." She knows one "as grabs it tight an' holds on as fairly to wring it's neck." Why? Well, it's uncommon desire and the eternal hope in the human soul that goes back farther than anyone knows. How many today can recall the imbruing odor of the stable? What happened to our Hattie was the perfumer of rained-in manure from the rose bed on Christmas morning. Here was smoke, to her as from an altar. There lay the ashes of time and there in bud, the heart of grace. Now this was a promise, she knew; a prophesy of beauty to come . . . true loveliness straight from the source of all. And being something of a philosopher, she ponders the inimitable ways of the son of God.

University and C. H. Connors of Rutgers.

When these people set about sifting and timing the available information for gardeners you may know there is much in store, even for the least of us. Among the regular monthly departments and features will be considered the Vegetable Garden; the Annual Garden; The Lawn; The Fruit Garden; Something on Wildflowers; Soil, Pests and Diseases; A Garden Calendar; Flower Arrangement ;The Rose Garden; The Perennial Garden and House Plants; Garden Planning; A Question Box and others.

With all this one may gather that the effort is to be pretentious and of very high quality and interest. One dampening thought spreads out over the enthusiasm of the writer. Such a comprehensive scheme might have given some thought and provision for the far West and South, even the subtropics of Southern California and Florida and all those way stations of such interest in between. The editorial board does not include any hint that these far countries are known. Gardeners there will still be forced to glean and read between lines for that which fits him. However, there is much to be thankful for in the prospectus. Our hopes and belief are high.

It is a promise. R. S. H.

She sees there the unchangeable natural law which is that life and all happiness is basic with recurring cycles of dissolution and growth. An understanding of all we call good comes from ashes . . . even as the present burns out and loses its glow, to brighten again in the thoughts of irrepressible man.

Something tells her, this day of Christ, that humanity must again look this law of growth directly in its sometimes ugly face and see to it that roses come from the failing brands of hate and the wavering course of nations. Another vision must come with the new year to counter the evil that breeds and comes to noisome bloom in the souls of men, where it feeds on injustice and frustration.

"That's somethin' for all us gardeners to see about, 'cause WE know what a openin' rose is an' where it comes from; the message it brings; the meanin' of black darkness at night an' th' light of the sun next day."

OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Floral Association was held in the Aquarium Room of the Natural History Museum on the twentieth of the month. The attendance was good, which indicates an unusual interest in the subject discussed. Mr. Silas B. Osborn spoke on rubber culture in California. Mr. Osborn, along with his work as deputy Agricultural Commissioner for San Diego County, has had wide experience with the latex producing plants of these regions. The most promising of these appears to be guayule, a native of dry subtropical soils and found in the state.

It is said that ninety-two percent of world rubber production is now in the hands of the Japanese. The normal yearly production of rubber is 1,100,100 tons. Normal use in this country is 592,000 tons as of 1939. Besides this there were 177 tons of reclaimed rubber and some 3000 tons from guayule. Present needs of military and civilian purposes, including our allies, is 1,000,000 tons. The supply on hand July 1, 1942, was betwen 500,000 and 600,000 tons.

Mr. Osborn strssed the point that synthetic rubber is not a scientific fact. These so-called synthetics are substitutes with different chemical compositions and usually require about twenty percent of natural rubber in making heavy duty tires.

Guayule (Parthenium argentatum) is the only plant in the United States ever used commercially for the production of rubber. It has been so used since 1904. The major company now is the Intercontinental Rubber Company, which came to San Diego in 1908 and moved to Salinas in 1922. The government purchased this company in 1942 and is carrying on. Small plants are now being grown from seed, enough to plant 200,000 acres, 500 acres of which are now being set out at Carlsbad in this county. This will produce enough seedlings to plant 32,000 acres of field plants. The estimated yield is 820 pounds per acre by the end of 1944. The government has authorized the planting of 500,000 acres.

The cost of producing guayule on a basis of four or five years' stand in the field before harvest is estimated at twenty cents a pound while the cost of producing plantation rubber is from seven to twelve cents. This difference in production costs is mainly responsible for not growing rubber in this country.

Rabbit Brush (Chrysothamnus paniculatus) and the Desert Milkweed, both of which are native in this area, produce rubber in lesser amounts than guayule, but grow in poorer soil and are more resistant to alkali.

—Etta Schwieder.

MEASURELESS CONTENT

"And so he came to a place which the redwoods have held, through all the ages, for their own. In the still depth of those primeval groves the living columns of the great trees rose majestically out of the undergrowth to support a leafy ceiling so high overhead that to the man below the very wind was hushed," says Mr. Wright, in referring to the Redwoods of Humboldt County. "The light filtered softly down through exquisite traceriesof green. Rhododendron, oxalis and azalea carpeted the forest floor with fragrant beauty. In the perpetual twilight, he saw giant ferns that reached back in an unbroken chain of life to a time so remote the centuries could not be numbered. The silence was the silence of that mystery from which all life issues.

"From a bewildered, frightened, money-mad, war-crazed world, this man—the creature of his fretful little materialistic day had come into the vast tranquility of Hempstead Forest which had witnessed the rise and fall of all the civilizations that men have built from the beginning until now. He was awed by the ageless beauty, the pregnant hush, the mystery. In this place of the redwoods, he sensed Time—not as men greedily measure their hurried hours, but as it is—measureless—holding the infinite past,

the present and the infinite future as one. It was given him to feel the oneness of all life through all time. In those majestic trees with their undergrowth of brakes and ferns millions of years lived. Those years were not a dead past; they were the living present. His brief moment of time with the changes in human affairs which he had witnessed was lost in the vastness of the whole. Reverently he bared his head. That element of man's nature which is more than physical or intellectual forced him to acknowledge the Presence that was manifest in these oldest of living things."

This is a description of a primeval Redwood forest, in a new novel with its setting in the Redwood region, *The Man Who Went Away,* by Harold Bell Wright. The novel, in the famed author's best vein, contains admirable passages which will be read with special interest by friends of the Save-the- Redwoods cause.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The regular meeting on December 15th ushered in our annual Christmas Party. Mrs. J. Terrill Scott gave a demonstration of the making of a Della-Robbia wreath, using as a foundation a three-inch circle cut from ply-wood. This she covered with foliage of the natal plum, afterwards adding berries, fruit and even small white onions and peppers for an accent in shape and coloring.

Mr. Perry, our Park Superintendent, gave us a practical discussion of the natural plant materials available for Christmas decoration, stressing the fact that this was the logical time for a swing away from the artificial, modernistic compositions, requiring substances now available, to the treasure store of nature where, especially in Southern California, handsome berries and rich green boughs are to be had on our very doorstep.

A fine array of potted plants, bedecked in gay wrappings, enough to give two to each person present, was the high-light of the party, and the spirited bidding on some extra prizes, especially the potted sage for the Christmas turkey, as managed by Santa-Claus-auctioneer, Carse, closed the evening with much merriment.

A.M.C.

FROM THE NOTEBOOK OF A MASTER GARDENER

GERBERA CULTURE

The leaves of ailing gerberas will ordinarily indicate a cultural trouble rather than the result of a definite disease organism. Gerberas have proven to be unusually difficult for many gardeners. They are very sensitive to poor drainage, or alkali salts, or too deep planting. The crowns of newly set plants are often put too deep by many growers, with disastrous results. Gerberas are also very susceptible to root-knot nematode. A severe infestation might cause this difficulty, but the alkali theory is believed to be the most likely.

Gerberas like a warm, well drained, light soil with an abundance of humus, but do not like heavy fertilization with strong fertilizers. Well rotted manures are considered the best fertilizer for them.

PRUNING

Now that the labor situation is so nearly impossible, thought may well be given NOW to caring for your shrubs personally.

Different shrubs should be pruned at different times of the year, depending upon thir blossoming period, as it is a general rule that shrubs should be pruned just after their normal blooming season. This allows them to produce new wood and buds for the following seåson.

It is the practice to prune many fruit trees annually that produce their blossoms and fruit on new wood. The same is true of ornamental shrubs. Pruning, of course, induces new growth. In the case of a non-bearing sapote, for instance, it probably is not top-pruning that is needed, but root-pruning to check vegetative growth. Top-pruning increases vegetative growth in trees or shrubs rather than otherwise.

Some general pruning principles, as laid down by Better Homes and Gardens, are as follows: (1) Heavy top pruning of a plant causes more leaves and branches. (2) Heavy root pruning lessens vegetative growth but increases the production of flowers and fruit. (3) A pruned plant always tends to resume its natural habit. (4) The uppermost buds of a plant grow first. (5) Heading-back of young growth forces the development of the side buds. (6) Checking growth in a heathy plant induces flowers and fruitfulness — girdling a twig or bending or twisting it causes the food which is manufactured by the leaves to remain in the injured twig rather than being carried away to the trunk and roots.

Definite instructions as to methods of pruning individual shrubs and trees depend almost entirely upon the individual type of plant, hence only general principles can be stated covering practically all plants. However, pruning of shrubs and small tree twigs should be done with sharp pruning shears. Heavy branches may be cut with heavy shears or a saw. Cut each branch or twig back to the next larger one so that no stub is left. Small branches or twigs should be cut just above a bud, if possible.

SCALE

Remember that peppers and oleanders are hosts of black scale and if there were not so many other hosts, it might possibly pay to refrain from planting them in the garden or near citrus, and possibly removing those already planted. Olive trees, for instance, are even more subject to black scale than are the two plants mentioned although less so near the sea. Many ornamental plants breed scale insects; so do many wild shrubs on our hills. California holly (toyon) and wild cherry are very often covered with black scale. Other plants as eucalyptus, the olive, sumach, (laurel) camphor tree, etc., are breeders of red scale, an insect much more serious in some gardens than is black scale. Except in the case of commercial citrus growers who can, to a greater or less degree control plantings around them, it rarely pays to refrain

from enjoying the plants named because of the possibility that they may breed scale. In most cases such plants can be successfully treated for scale when necessary.

LAWN SUBSTITUTES

The plant generaly known as "Jap" grass is, strictly speaking, not a grass at all but belongs to the little family. It is true it has a grass-like foliage hat under some conditions forms a good ground cover. As a rule the plants do not grow more than 8 or 10 inches in height. This plant has thick, underground rootstocks with fibrous roots and makes a dense, thick mat on the ground surface. It will grow either in full shade or in the sun.

Another plant along the same line is St. Augustine-grass. This is a coarse perennial for lawns, thriving where many other grasses do not. It makes a very good growth in heavy soil, but will also do quite well in the lighter, sandy soils providing it has sufficient moisture. It will also grow in full shade or in the sun, but competes with the roots of trees and other plants growing in the same soil. It is quite similar to Bermuda grass, but is a more vivid green and is more easily kept within bounds. It is somewhat coarser than Bermuda and holds its color better through the winter.

Another grass quite similar to St. Augustine is known as Kikuyu. This grass is rather new but apparently after it is well established no amount of abuse will seriously injure it, providing only it has water from time to time.

Termites

The subject of termites is of interest to all, including gardeners, and requires clarification from time to time.

Although there are a number of species of termites in California, we are really definitely concerned with but two, the subterranean termite and the dry-wood termite.

The subterranean termite, as its name indicates, lives in the ground and works in timbers in contact with

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Gleaning From the Magazines

By IDA LOUISE BRYANT

With an accumulated pile of magazines to talk about, the October, November and December issues of those on our exchange list, the best one can do is to pick out articles and comments here and there that will interest the majority of our gardening readers. We have an over-abundance of riches to choose from; and as the publications go to the Floral Association shelf in our Main Library for circulation, none of the fine material they contain need be missed, whether or not it is commented upon in this column.

GOLDEN GARDENS for October has a stimulating article, "By Way of Suggestion," on being more progressive and venturesome in our gardening. (Can't you just see one of Helen Hokinson's inimitable Garden Club ladies responding whole-heartedly to that suggestion?) I quote: "You will not need to look very far in your community to come across that garden that you used to admire some years ago, but which now really bores you even though it is just as well kept up as it was ten years ago. The same trees and shrubs are there, the hedge is trimmed exactly to the same height and shape, the very same flowers are planted each year in the very same colors. You wish that some day, somehow, a weed would grow somewhere just to break the monotony."

He goes on to appeal to gardeners to try new varieties of plants and bulbs, plant something you don't even know, something that will make your garden different from the hundred and one other gardens in your community. He speaks of the new and improved varieties of Agapanthus, the color range of the Billbergias—something we didn't know existed.

We are for him as far as getting new varieties is concerned; most interested gardeners are constantly on the watch for new things, and a change in landscaping is as refreshing as new paint and wallpaper and furniture indoors. But we confess (and we know we're not alone in this) that in the enthusiasm of our first California gardening, we changed and moved things around altogether TOO frequently, often to the detriment of the poor bewildered specimen, that, as Miss Sessions used to say, couldn't get its roots down into the ground and get settled.

Women gardeners have long been accused of having a mania for moving plants hither and yon, with the contention—and there's logic in it—that if a thing doesn't do well in one spot, it may flourish like the green bay tree in another exposure, or where soil and moisture conditions are a bit different; but we all know that men gardeners laugh at us for it. What man ever wanted the furniture changed about, as far as that goes?

One gardener well known to us must have gone too far in her moving and changing things in the garden ,though, when her innocent suggestion one day that something should be done about the pool, a ten-foot oval that centered the garden, brought forth the anguished cry from her long-suffering husband: "Lord help us, do we have to move THAT, too?"

"Streamline Your Victory Garden" in the same GOLDEN GARDENS is full of meaty suggestions as to new varieties of vegetables recommended for this section. Do you all know about "Circular No. 26, The Home Vegetable Garden," gotten out by the Agricultural Extension Service, University of California, Berkeley, California, and another good one, "Circular 117, Home Fruit Growing in California," same address, both free for the asking?

The CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL for September, and the combination October-November issue carry many illustrations for the delectation of cactophiles and cacti ignorami alike. One is delighted to find the photograph of a specimen that had heretofore been nameless, but carted around through several movings, and kept track of just because it was so interesting looking. And here it's a member of the well-known Haworthia family. Cactus and succulent nomenclature, apparently the source of considerable difference of opinion and debate among cactophiles (their own name for the group) is staggering to those on the outside. I

read that Byrnesia Weinbergi is now called Graptopetalum paraguayensis; and I wonder if there are cactus gardeners, too, who say, airily, "I like to call things by their common names, those Latin names don't mean anything," as a newcomer from Detroit informed me, lately.

HORTICULTURE, the fine semi-monthly publication of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, "with the co-operation of the Horticultural Society of New York and the Pennsylvania Horticultural society" in its fall issues treats largely of preparations for winter. Looking about at dejected, bloomed-out bedding plants, climbing-rose streamers fifteen feet long all over the place, a pool full of lily boxes to empty and renew, one could almost wish that we too were going to have a fallow period for three or four months—no replanting necessary (none possible, in fact), no pruning, no fertilizing, no spraying, no sulphuring, no pests to think about, for all that time!

We were interested to find, in HORTICULTURE'S November 15 issue, an article by a San Francisco writer on "Chayotes as Victory Garden Vegetables." The chayote seems to be reviving as a vegetable subject, although the markets here haven't paid much attention to them for some years. We last planted them in 1922, but their enormous growth of vine was a real drawback, to say nothing of the huge quantity of fruit produced; one to a good-sized block is all that should be permitted, by city ordinance. We blush to tell it in these frugal days, with fresh vegetables expensive as they are, but when we got to the point where no one in the family would eat them, and we could no longer find anyone among our friends and neighbors who would accept them, we had to set out a couple of boxes full for the garbage collector.

A Guatemalan vegetable, the chayote (chah yoh'tay), to most people, is a singularly flavorless type of squash, needing to be dressed up with onion, green pepper or tomato to have an appreciable taste; although one might say the same about the summer squash, cymling, apparently so dear to the hearts of all restaurant cooks. The flesh of the chayote is a lovely pale jade when cooked—its one redeeming feature—and we served it cut in cubes, in a sauce, with cheese, with other vegetables, or with French dressing in a salad. It was still insipid.

One vine will completely cover a large trellis, or fifty feet of fence, in a season; it's not entirely ornamental, because as with many cucurbits, the lower leaves get dry and unsightly looking early in the season. The whole fruit itself is planted, for seed, in the fall; and with the steady warm weather in the spring, it shoots up and from then on, the owner is at its mercy. If a sure crop and quantity production are your goal as a victory gardener, by all means plant a chayote.

In the same magazine, on the Letters to the Editor page, a reader suggests a cure for the gardeners' "crick in the back"—to hang by the hands, not more than a minute a day. It might be worth trying.

THE GARDENER'S CHRONICLE, being an East Coast publication (Baltimore), also devotes much of its fall issue's space to preparing for winter. In "Three Plants Worth Knowing," October number, we were delighted to find listed with Veltheimia viridifolia and Cerastium (Snow-in-summer), the third, our native Brodiaea. It is enthusiastically spoken of for garden use, and highly recommended as a pot plant, with flowers suitable for cutting, and long-lasting. We hope that eastern children haven't discovered that the little bulb is edible; western children call them "grass-nuts" and eat them con mucho gusto. To us, they have the flavor and texture of "a fragment of an underdone potato"; but then, children will eat anything!

November BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS has a cover page that is lovely as a dream, and must awaken a nostalgic pang in the heart of every beholder who dwelt under such golden boughs in his youth. Our readers would find interesting: "Tiny Gardens Chock-full of Big Ideas" (does that spelling bother you, too? Our Funk and Wagnalls says it's right); "Gardens on the Up and Up," and an article by an expert on growing dwarf fruit trees.

AMERICAN HOME for November has a story, with photographs, of the intriguing little glass bowl gardens so popular now. Here is a way to get your antique glass, once more utilitarian, out of the cupboards; out where it can be gloated over more comfortably, coveted more eagerly. Is that what's at the bottom of collecting, anyway, we wonder?

November SUNSET has seven pages on "Lath and Glass," with detailed drawings for the benefit of "The Avid Gardener" they're planned for. A lath house may not be an unmixed blessing, for they do have to be taken care of; but in this locality we find them invaluable for flats of seedlings (our winter so far has been abnormally hot and dry), bringing plants such as tuberous begonias, into perfect flower, resting bloomed-out potted bulbs, etc., keeping cutting-boxes properly damp, and last but not least, as a hiding place for the supplies and tools needed in the simplest sort of gardening. It goes without saying that the lath house herein described is the purely-for-utility type. As to the glorified kind, with its aisles lined with rare ferns, fuchsias and begonias through every color gradation, with its pools and fountains and easy chairs, sometimes tea tables ,occasionally a barbecue with dining table and benches, that, reader, is the star we run-of-the-mill gardeners hitch our wagon to.

FROM HONOLULU

(Continued from Page 3)

The Pink Shower led the procession, and it was interesting to watch the development. First a few flowers appeared on each tree, as if to see if it was safe to venture out, then they came out in great numbers. A few days later the Pink and White Shower started in, followed by Royal Poinciana, and just the last few days the Golden Shower put in its appearance.

Though the Cassias are sister species, each has a different flowering habit. The Pink is in lacy groups along the branches; the Pink and White appear on short flower stems surrounding each branch of the tree, showing the outline of each branch when the tree is in full bloom; the

Golden is a pure yellow and hangs in large clusters from the branches, like bunches of grapes.

The flowers of the Royal Poinciana, the most gorgeous of them all, are in upright panicles all over the tops of the trees. I think the Golden Shower comes next in attractiveness.

It has been interesting watching the parade of flowers, not knowing what to expect next, and expect there are still a few surprises in store. Shall let you know in my next letter.

With best wishes, I am

Your friend,

JOHN PRICE.

TERMITES

(Continued From Page 7)

or near the ground. It does not attack the dry wood in the upper part of the building although it does build mud tubes to reach timbers a few feet above the ground. On the contrary, the dry-wood termites lives in dry, preferably sound wood without maintaining contact with the earth.

The dry-wood termite colony consists of a king and queen and a variable number of nymphs or young termites, winged reproductives and soldiers. After shedding their wings, male and female reproductives mate and a so-called royal pair, or king and queen, dig into exposed dry wood as rafters, window sills and frames, porch timbers and ceilings. After entering they seal themselves in the entrance passage with a plug of brownish cement and proceed to excavate a pear-shaped cell where the queen begins egg-laying. Such winged reproductives leave the parent colony usually during September and October in southern California to establish new infestations.

As a matter of interest, the number of termites in an infestation varies considerably, according to Hervey, U. of C. He estimates that at the end of the 4th year a colony will contain from 75 to 700 individuals and up to 2750 individuals in a 15-year-old colony.

As to methods of control, it is usually best to call in a licensed termite exterminating concern, especially if some removal and replacement of timbers is necessary. If the exterminator finds the infestation has not proceeded far enough to require timber replacement he will probably bore into affected timbers with a brace and bit to reach the insect runways, making his borings from 1/8 to 1/2 inch in diameter, depending upon the size and position of timbers. He will then force a powdered poison, as paris green or sodium fluosilicate, into each by means of a dust gun or similar instrument and afterwards plug the holes up with wooden dowels. The termites will be killed by the poison if they are struck by it or will die if they later come in contact with it in the runways. Some termite operators use a poisonous liquid instead of the powders.

A free University of California bulletin on termite control can be obtained by writing the University or possibly the local Farm Bureau office in the Old Post Office building may have a supply.

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Winter Thoughts

The gumming of deciduous fruit trees, particularly peaches, plums, prunes and to a somewhat lesser extent apricots, is usually due to unfavorable soil and water conditions, or to winter injury. The fact is that our relatively warm winters are sometimes unsuitable for the best development of the trees named. They do not have proper rest periods when the winters are warm and as a result they are late in putting out foliage and show symptoms of distress all through the summer. Excessive water, either rainfall or irrigation, in locations where the drainage is poor or the soil is heavy, is another frequent source of trouble for deciduous fruits.

There is very little one can do to correct this condition except to give the trees as good care as possible, providing adequate drainage where necessary, not over-irrigating, and keeping the trees well pruned and fertilized. After pruning, in the late fall or early winter, spray the trees all over with ordinary whitewash, renewing throughout the winter as and if necessary. Whitewashing the trees will prevent sunburn and subsequent attacks of borers, and will enable them to attain a greater degree of dormancy so necessary to deciduous fruits.

E. H. S.

FOOD

(Continued From Page 3)

mits, keeping a cow or goat for milk and the preservation and storage of foods. The Farm Advisor's office will have some of this information available through mimeographed pamphlets and United States Department of Agriculture and University of California circulars, but there is much you can do to help in developing a sound Home Food Production program in which accurate information can be compiled and methods developed through which you can be helpful to your neighbors.

—Jean C. Miller.

CALIFORNIA BLACK OAK

The California Black Oak (Quercus kelloggi) is a typical high mountain tree of the Pacific slope from Oregon south to the backbone of Southern California, where this specimen enframes Palomar's observatory. It may grow to become 100 feet in height, the limbs heavy and far-spreading, the short trunk massive, feathered and probably rotted in the way of teeth where people lack calcium or phosphorus or whatever it takes. Does not grow at all well on the lowlands.